

FLA

To FLAUNT. *v. n.*

1. To make a fluttering show in apparel.

With ivy canopy'd, and interwove

With flaunting honeyuckles. *Milton.*These courtiers of applause deny themselves things convenient to flaunt it out, being frequently enough fain to imitate their own desires to their vanity. *Boyle.*

Here, attir'd beyond our purse, we go,

For useless ornament and flaunting show:

We take on trust, in purple robes to shine,

And poor, are yet ambitious to be fine. *Dryden's Juvenal.*You tot, you loiter about alehouses, or flaunt about the streets in your new-gilt chariot, never minding me nor your numerous family. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

2. To be hung with something loose and flying. This seems not to be proper.

Fortune in men has some small difference made;

One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade. *Pope's Essay.*FLAUNT. *n. f.* Any thing loose and airy.

How would he look to see his work so noble,

Wildly bound up, what would he say! or how

Should I in these my borrow'd flaunts behold

The sternness of his preference! *Shaksp. Winter's Tale.*FLAVOUR. *n. f.*

1. Power of pleasing the taste.

They have a certain flavour, at their first appearance, from several accidental circumstances, which they may lose, if not taken early. *Addison's Spectator, N^o. 488.*

2. Sweetness to the smell; odour; fragrance.

Myrtle, orange, and the blushing rose,

With bending heaps, to nigh their bloom disclose,

Each seems to smell the flavour which the other blows. *Dry.*FLAVOUROUS. *adj.* [from flavour.]

1. Delightful to the palate.

Sweet grapes degen'tate there, and fruits declin'd

From their first flav'rous taste, renounce their kind. *Dryden.*

2. Fragrant; odorous.

FLAW. *n. f.* [*Φλάω*, to break; *ploh*, Saxon, a fragment; *flawu*, Dutch, broken in mind.]

1. A crack or breach in any thing.

This heart shall break into a thousand flaws,

Or ere I weep. *Shaksp. King Lear.*Wool, new-thorn, being laid casually upon a vessel of verjuice, after some time had drunk up a great part of the verjuice, though the vessel were whole, without any flaw, and had not the bungle open. *Bacon's Natural History.*We found it exceeding difficult to keep out the air from getting in at any imperceptible hole or flaw. *Boyle.*

A flaw is in thy ill-bak'd vessel found;

'Tis hollow, and returns a jarring sound. *Dryden's Pers.*

As if great Atlas, from his height,

Should sink beneath his heavenly weight;

And with a mighty flaw the flaming wall, as once it shall,

Should gape immense, and, rushing down, o'erwhelm this nether ball. *Dryden.*

Whether the nymph shall break Diana's law,

Or some frail China-jar receive a flaw. *Pope.*He that would keep his house in repair, must attend every little breach or flaw, and supply it immediately, else time alone will bring all to ruin. *Swift.*

2. A fault; defect.

Yet certain though it be, it hath flaws; for that the scribes and brokers do value unfound men to serve their own turn. *Bacon's Essays.*

Traditions were a proof alone,

Could we be certain such they were, so known:

But since some flaws in long descents may be,

They make not truth, but probability. *Dryden.*

And laid her dowry out in law,

To null her jointure with a flaw. *Hudibras, p. iii. c. i.*Their judgment has found a flaw in what the generality of mankind admires. *Addison's Spectator.*3. A sudden gust; a violent blast. [from *flō*, Latin.]

Being incens'd, he's fudden

As humours as Winters, and as sudden

As flaws congealed in the freezing of day. *Shaksp. Hen. IV.*

Oh, that that earth, which kept the world in awe,

Should patch a wall, to expel the Winter's flaw. *Shak. Ham.*

As a huge fish, laid

Near to the cold weed-gathering shore, is with a north flaw

Shoots back; so, sent against the ground, [fraid,

Was foil'd Eurialus. *Chapman's Iliads.*

Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice,

And snow, and hail, and stormy gust, and flaw,

Boreas, and Cæcias, and Argettes loud,

And Thræcias rend the woods, and seas upturn. *Milton.*

I heard the rack,

As earth and sky would mingle; but myself

Was distant; and these flaws, though mortals fear them,

As dangerous to the pillar'd frame of heav'n,

Or to the earth's dark basins underneath,

Are to the main inconsiderable. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

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4. A tumult; a tempestuous uproar.

And this fell tempest shall not cease to rage,

Until the golden circuit on my head

Do calm the fury of this madbrain'd flaw. *Shak. Hen. VI.*

The fort's revolted to the emperor,

The gates are open'd, the portcullis drawn,

And deluges of armies from the town

Came pouring in: I heard the mighty flaw;

When first it broke, the crowding enigns saw

Which choak'd the passage. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

5. A sudden commotion of mind.

Oh these flaws and starts,

Impostors to true fear, would become

A woman's story at a Winter's fire. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*To FLAW. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To break; to crack; to damage with fissure.

But his flaw'd heart,

Alack, too weak the conflict to support;

'Twixt two extremes of passion, joy and grief,

Burst smilingly. *Shaksp. King Lear.*The cup was flaw'd with such a multitude of little cracks, that it looks like a white, not like a crystalline cup. *Boyle.*

The brazen cauldrons with the froths are flaw'd.

The garment stiff with ice, at heart's thaw'd. *Dryden.*

2. To break; to violate. Out of use.

France hath flaw'd the league, and hath attach'd

Our merchants goods. *Shaksp. Henry VIII.*FLAWLESS. *adj.* [from flaw.] Without cracks; without defects.A star of the first magnitude, which the more high, more vast, and more flawless, shines only bright enough to make itself conspicuous. *Boyle on Colours.*FLAWN. *n. f.* [plena, Saxon; *flan*, French; *vlaeye*, Dutch.]A fort of custard; a pie baked in a dish. *Diët.*To FLAWTER. *v. a.* To scrape or pare a skin. *Alphonsus.*FLAWY. *adj.* [from flaw.] Full of flaws.FLAX. *n. f.* [pleax, plex, Saxon; *vlas*, Dutch.]

1. The fibrous plant of which the finest thread is made.

The leaves, for the most part, grow alternately on branches: the cup of the flower consists of one leaf, is tubulous, and divided into five parts at the top: the flower consists of five leaves, which expand in form of a clove-gillflower: the ovary, which rises from the centre of the flowercup, becomes an almost globular fruit, which is generally pointed, and composed of many cells, in which are lodged many plain smooth seeds, which are blunt at one end, and generally sharp at the other. The species are six. The first sort is that which is cultivated for use in divers parts of Europe, and is reckoned an excellent commodity. It should be cultivated. *Miller.*

2. The fibres of flax cleaned and combed for the spinner.

I'll fetch some flax, and whites of eggs,

To apply to's bleeding face. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

Then on the rock a scanty measure place

Of vital flax, and turn'd the wheel apace,

And turning sung. *Dryden's Ovid, b. viii.*FLAXCOMBS. *n. f.* [flax and comb.] The instrument with which the fibres of flax are cleaned from the brittle parts.FLAXDRESSER. *n. f.* [flax and dress.] He that prepares flax for the spinner.FLAXEN. *adj.* [from flax.]

1. Made of flax.

The matron, at her nightly task,

With penive labour draws the flaxen thread. *Thomf. Winter.*The best materials for making ligatures are the flaxen thread that shoemakers use. *Sharp's Surgery.*

2. Pair, long and flowing, as if made of flax.

I bought a fine flaxen long wig, that cost me thirty guineas. *Addison's Guardian, N^o. 97.*FLAXWEED. *n. f.* A plant.To FLAY. *v. a.* [ed flax, Ilandick; *flac*, Danish; *vlaen*, Dut.]

1. To strip of the skin.

I must have suffered famine, been eaten with wild beasts, or have fallen into the hands of the Spaniards, and been fayed alive. *Raleigh's Apolog.*While the old levitical hierarchy continued, it was part of the ministerial office to flay the sacrifices. *Saith.*

Then give command the sacrifice to haste;

Let the flay'd victims in the plains be cast;

And sacred vows, and mystick songs, apply'd

To grilly Pluto and his gloomy bride. *Pope's Odyssey, b. x.*

2. To take off the skin or surface of any thing.

They flay their skin from off them, break their bones, and chop them in pieces. *Mac. iii. 3.*Neither should that odious custom be allowed of cutting scraws, which is flaying off the green surface of the ground, to cover their cabins, or make up their ditches. *Swift.*FLAY'ER. *n. f.* [from flay.] He that strips off the skin of any thing.FLEA. *n. f.* [plea, Saxon; *vloze*, Dutch; *flaech*, Scottish.] A small red insect remarkable for its agility in leaping, which sucks the blood of larger animals.

While wormwood hath fed, get a handful or two'n,

To fave against March to make flea to refrain: *Wh.*

FLE

Where chamber is sweep'd, and wormwood is strown,

No flea for his life dare abide to be known. *Tuff. Husband.*Fleas breed principally of straw or mats, where there hath been a little moisture. *Bacon's Natural History.*A valiant flea, that dares eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion. *Shaksp. Henry V.*To FLEA. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To clean from fleas.FLEABANE. *n. f.* [flea and bane.] A plant.It hath undivided leaves, which, for the most part, are glutinous, and have a strong scent: the cup of the flower is for the most part scaly, and of a cylindrical form: the flower is composed of many florets, which are succeeded by seeds with a downy substance adhering to them. *Miller.*FLEABITE. *n. f.* [flea and bite.]

1. Red marks caused by fleas.

The attendance of a cancer is commonly a breaking out all over the body, like a fleabiting. *Wise's Surgery.*

2. A small hurt or pain like that caused by the sting of a flea.

A gout, a choick, a cutting off an arm or leg, or scaring the flesh, are but fleabites to the pains of the soul. *Harvey.*The same expense that breaks one man's back, is not a fleabiting to another. *L'Estrange, Fable 229.*FLEABITTEN. *adj.* [flea and bite.]

1. Stung by fleas.

2. Mean; worthless.

Fleabitten tyrod, an assembly brew'd

Of clerks and elders ana, like the rude

Chaos of presbytry, where laymen guide,

With the tame woolpack clergy by their side. *Cleveland.*FLEAK. *v. a.* [from *flacus*, Latin. See FLAKE.] A small lock, thread, or twill.The businesses of men depend upon these little long fleaks or threads of hemp and flax. *Mart's Antidote against Atheism.*FLEAM. *n. f.* [corrupted from *Φλεγομα*, the instrument used in phlebotomy.] An instrument used to bleed cattle, which is placed on the vein, and then driven by a blow.FLEAWORT. *n. f.* [flea and wort.] A plant.This plant agrees with plantain and buckthorn-plantain in every respect, excepting that this rises up with leafy stalks, and divides into many branches; whereas both the others produce their flowers upon naked pedicles. *Miller.*To FLECK. *v. a.* [fleck, German, a spot, *Skinner*: perhaps it is derived from *fleak*, or *fleke*, an old word for a grate, hurdle, or any thing made of parts laid transverse, from the Ilandick *flake*.] To spot; to streak; to stripe; to dapple; to variegate.

Let it not see the dawning fleet the skies,

Nor the grey morning from the ocean rise. *Sandys.*

Fleck'd in her face, and with disorder'd hair,

Her garments ruffled, and her bosom bare. *Dryden's Juven.*Both fleck'd with white, the true Arcadian strain. *Dryden.*To FLECKER. *v. a.* [from fleck.] To spot; to mark with strokes or touches of different colours; to mark with red wheelies.

The grey-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night,

Check'ring the eastern clouds with streaks of light;

And darkness fleck'd, like a drunkard, reels

From forth day's path, and Titan's burning wheels. *Shaksp.*

FLEED. The preterite and participle not properly of fly, to use the wings, but of flee, to run away.

The truth is fled far away, and leaving is hard at hand. *2 Esdr. xiv. 18.*

In vain for life he to the altar fled;

Ambition and revenge have certain speed. *Prior.*FLEDGE. *adj.* [fledgen, to fly, Dutch.] Full-feathered; able to fly; qualified to leave the nest.

We did find

The shells of fledge souls left behind. *Herbert.*

His locks behind,

Illustrous on his shoulders, fledge with wings,

Lay waving round. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iii.*To FLEDGE. *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To furnish with wings; to supply with feathers.The birds were not as yet fledged enough to shift for themselves. *L'Estrange, Fable 72.*The speedy growth of birds that are hatched in nests, and fed by the old ones 'till they be fledged, and come almost to full bigness in about a fortnight, seems to me an argument of providence. *Ray on the Creation.*

The sandals of celestial mould,

Fledg'd with ambrosial plumes, and rich with gold,

Surround her feet. *Pope's Odyssey, b. i.*To FLEER. *v. n.* pret. fled. [This word is now almost universally written fly, though properly to fly, pteogan, is to move with wings, and flee, ptean, to run away. They are now confounded.] To run from danger; to have recourse to shelter.Behold, this city is near to flee unto. *Gen. xix. 20.*

Were men to dull they could not flee

That Lyce painted; should they flee

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Like simple birds into a net,

So grossly woven and ill set? *Waller.*There are none of us fall into those circumstances of danger, want, or pain, that we can have hopes of relief but from God alone; none in all the world to flee to, but him. *Tillotson, Sermon 1.*FLEECE. *n. f.* [fley, Saxon; *vlees*, Dutch.] As much wool as is shorn from one sheep.

Giving account of the annual increase

Both of their lambs and of their woolly fleeces. *Hubb. Tale.*

So many days my ewes have been with young,

So many months ere I shall shear the fleeces. *Shak. Hen. VI.*

I am shepherd to another man,

And do not shear the fleeces that I graze. *Shak. As you like it.*

Her funny locks

Hang on her temples like a golden fleece. *Shaksp. Lear.*Sailors have used every night to hang fleeces of wool on the sides of their ships, towards the water; and they have crusted fresh water out of them in the morning. *Bacon's Nat. History.*The sheep will prove much to the advantage of the woollen manufacture, by the fineness of the fleeces. *Gulliver's Travels.*To FLEECE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To clip the fleece off a sheep.

2. To strip; to pull; to plunder, as a sheep is robbed of his wool.

Courts of justice have a small pension, so that they are tempted to take bribes, and to fleece the people. *Addison.*FLEECE'd. *adj.* [from fleece.] Having fleeces of wool.

As when two rams, flur'd with ambitious pride,

Fight for the rule of the rich fleeced flock,

Their horned fronts so fierce on either side

Do meet, that with the terror of the shock

Altoned both stand fenceless as a block. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*FLEECEY. *adj.* [from fleece.] Woolly; covered with wool.

Not all the fleecy wealth

That doth enrich these downs, is worth a thought

To that my errand. *Milton.*

From eastern point

Of Libya, to the fleecy star, that bears

Andromeda far off Atlantic seas. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

Let her glad valleys smile with wavy corn;

Let fleecy flocks her rising hills adorn. *Prior.*

The good shepherd tends his fleecy care,

Seeks freshest pasture, and the purest air;

Explores the lost, the wand'ring sheep directs. *Pope's Mess.*To FLEER. *v. n.* [pleaphan, to trifle, Saxon; *flardan*, Scottish.] *Skinner* thinks it formed from *leer*.]

1. To mock; to gibe; to jest with insolence and contempt.

You speak to Casca, and to such a man

That is no steering tell-tale. *Shaksp. Julius Cæsar.*

Dares the slave

Come hither, cover'd with an antick face,

To leer and scorn at our solemnity! *Shak. Rem. and Juliet.*

Do I, like the female tribe,

Think it well to leer and gibe? *Swift.*

How popular and courteous; how they grin and leer upon every man they meet!

FLEER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. Mockery expressed either in words or looks.

Engrave yourself,

And mark the fleers, the gibes, and notable scorns,

That dwell in every region of his face. *Shaksp. Othello.*

2. A deceitful grin of civility.

If a man will but observe such persons